

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CARACA 07530 231519Z

65

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05 /073 W

----- 035930

R 222210Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9527

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 7530

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT VE

SUBJECT: PINERUA ELECTED AD SECRETARY GENERAL

REF CARACAS 6618; CARACAS 7400

SUMMARY: LUIS PINERUA ORDAZ HAS EMERGED FROM THE AD NATIONAL CONVENTION HELD JUL 17-20 AS FRONT-RUNNER FOR HIS PARTY'S 1978 PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION AS A RESULT OF HIS DECISIVE VICTORY IN THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S RACE. THE CONVENTION ALSO ELECTED A NEW NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WHICH IS DOMINATED BY PINERUA. BY RELIEVING THE INTRA-PARTY TENSION WHICH HAD BUILT UP AS A RESULT OF MANEUVERING FOR THE SECRETARY GENERALSHIP AND BY PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PROBLEMS BETWEEN AD AND PRESIDENT PEREZ TO BE DISCUSSED, THE CONVENTION APPEARS TO HAVE STRENGTHENED THE PARTY. END SUMMARY

1. FORMER INTERIOR MINISTER LUIS PINERUA ORDAZ TOOK A LONG STEP TOWARD OBTAINING THE GOVERNING ACCION DEMOCRATICA PARTY'S 1978 PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION WHEN AD'S 20TH NATIONAL CONVENTION CHOSE HIM JULY 19 AS THE PARTY'S SECRETARY GENERAL FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS. PINERUA DEFEATED DEPUTY CARLOS CANACHE MATA, INTERIM SECRETARY GENERAL SINCE JAN 1975, BY A VOTE OF 485 TO 250. THE POSITION OF SECRETARY GENERAL IS AD'S KEY POLITICAL POST AND HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN THE SPRINGBOARD FOR ADECOS WITH PRESIDENTIAL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CARACA 07530 231519Z

ASPIRATIONS. PINERUA THUS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE MOVE HE

BEGAN EARLY THIS YEAR WHEN HE RESIGNED HIS MINISTERIAL POSITION IN ORDER TO SEEK THE AD SECRETARY GENERALSHIP (CARACAS 1194).

2. FROM ITS JUL 17 BEGINNING UNTIL ITS CLOSING IN THE EARLY HOURS OF JUL 21 THE CONVENTION PRODUCED FEW SURPRISES AND CONFIRMED THAT THE PARTY RANK AND FILE ARE GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH THE PARTY'S PRESENT DIRECTION. THE SUBSURFACE UNEASINESS BETWEEN THE PARTY AND PRESIDENT PEREZ (CARACAS 6618) EMERGED ON ONLY TWO OCCASIONS. INTERIM SECRETARY GENERAL CANACHE TOLD THE 746 DELEGATES THAT SOME GOVT POLICIES WERE PROGRESSING SLOWLY, WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO THE "CLUMSLY AND ANACHRONISTIC" PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND CONTRADICTIONS WITHIN THE GOVT. PRESIDENT PEREZ ADDRESSED THE CONVENTION THE FOLLOWING DAY, ADN IN A NOT-TOO VEILED REPLY TO CANACHE, STATED THAT MANY THINGS WERE NOT GOING WELL IN THE PARTY. "TODAY MORE THAN EVER", PEREZ SAID, "WE NEED A UNITED PARTY WHOSE MEMBERS AND LEADERS CAN SEE FURTHER THAN THE ENDS OF THEIR NOSES." BOTH CANACHE AND PEREZ, HOWEVER, CITED AN ARRAY OF STATISTICS WHICH THE SAID SHOWED THAT THE PUBLIC CONTINUED TO SUPPORT THE AD GOVT.

3. EX-PRESIDENT BETANCOURT BROUGHT THE DELEGATES TO THEIR FEET WITH A PARTISAN ADDRESS JUL 18. BETANCOURT DENOUNCED THE LEFTIST MOVEMENT TO SOCIALISM (MAS) AS "HIGHLY DANGEROUS" BECAUSE OF ITS EFFORTS TO PENETRATE THE VENEZUELAN ARMED FORCES. HE ACCUSED MAS OF PROMOTING AMONG THE MILITARY COUPS SIMILAR TO THOSE IN PERU OR PORTUGAL. (BETANCOURT'S CHARGES WERE SUBSEQUENTLY DENIED BY BOTH THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND MAS LEADER JOSE VICENTE RANGEL.) THE FORMER PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL RESUME AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE PARTY IN ORDER TO HELP THE NATION THROUGH THE PRESENT DANGEROUS PERIOD. HE EXHORTED THE DELEGATES TO SPARE NO EFFORT IN COMBATING ADMINISTRATIVE CORRUPTION AND ACCUSED SOME SENATORS AND DEPUTIES OF NOT LIVING UP TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES. DURING A LAVISH AD RECEPTION THAT NIGHT AT THE HILTON HOTEL, BETANCOURT STARTLED THE FESTIVE CONVENTIONEERS WITH A SECOND APPEARANCE AND, LIKE A PRESENT DAY AMOS, ACCUSED THEM OF IGNORING HIS EARLIER STRICTURES AGAINST EXTRAVAGANCE. THE FORMER PRESIDENT THERE UPON TURNED ON HIS HEEL AND LEFT, LEAVING THE DELEGATES IN CONFUSION.

4. THE BATTLE FOR AD SECRETARY GENERAL WAS THE CENTRAL POINT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 CARACA 07530 231519Z

INTEREST AT THE CONVENTION. IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE CONVENTION AD LEADERS REINALDO LEANDRO MORA AND DAVID MORALES BELLO THREW THEIR SUPPORT TO CANACHE IN HOPE OF STOPPING THE HARD-CHARGING PINERUA. PINERUA, HOWEVER, WAS BACKED BY 20 OF THE PARTY'S 25 HEADS OF STATE AD ORGANIZATIONS AND THE PARTY'S LABOR BUREAU, PLUS THE ASSUMED BUT NEVER PUBLICLY STATED SUPPORT OF BETANCOURT AND PEREZ. FOLLOWING HIS VICTORY, PINERUA MOVED QUICKLY TO HEAL ANY INTRA-PARTY

WOUNDS BY CALLING ON THE CONVENTION TO ACCLAIM CANACHE EXECUTIVE POLITICAL SECRETARY IN THE AD LEADERSHIP. IN AN UNCONTESTED RACE NATIONAL CONGRESS PRESIDENT GONALO BARRIOS WAS UNANIMOUSLY REELECTED AS AD PRESIDENT.

5. THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CEN), THE PARTY'S TOP POLICY-MAKING BODY, WERE ELECTED JUL 20. FOUR FORMER CEN MEMBERS, HUMBERTO HERNANDEZ, ELIA BORGES DE TAPIA, JOSE CILIBERTO, AND OMAR HIGUERA, WERE NOT REELECTED. THE NEW CEN IS COMPOSED AS FOLLOWS: PRESIDENT- GONZALO BARRIOS; FIRST VICE PRESIDENT - REINALDO LEANDRO MORA; SECRETARY GENERAL - LUIS PINERUA ORDAZ; ORGANIZATION SECRETARY - ALEJANDRO IZAGUIRRE; LABOR SECRETARY - MANUEL PENALVER; AGRARIAN SECRETARY - FRANCISCO VARGAS MUNOZ; EDUCATION SECRETARY - JOSE ANGEL AGREDA; YOUTH SECRETARY - HECTOR ALONSO LOPEZ; PROFESSIONALS AND TECHNICIANS SECRETARY - ROMAN PACHECO VIVAS; EXECUTIVE POLITICAL SECRETARIES - CARLOS CANACHE MATA, JAIME LUSINCHI, ARTURO HERNANDEZ GRISANTI, HUMBERTO CELLI, DAVID MORALES BELLO, CRISTOBAL HERNANDEZ, LUIS ALFARO UCERO, JOSE VARGAS, AND ARMANDO GONZALEZ.

6. COMMENT: PINERUA'S ELECTION AS SECRETARY GENERAL WAS EXPECTED, AND IN FACT PINERUA ACCURATELY PREDICTED HIS MARGIN OF VICTORY WELL BEFORE THE CONVENTION TOOK PLACE. PINERUA'S EMPHATIC VICTORY MAKES HIM THE CLEAR FRONT-RUNNER FOR THE PARTY'S 1978 PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION, ALTHOUGH HE WILL FACE OPPOSITION FROM SUCH PARTY RIVALS AS INTERIOR MINISTER OCTAVIO LEPAGE, SENATOR LEANDRO MORA AND OTHERS. HOWEVER, AS SECRETARY GENERAL WITH A NEW CEN GENERALLY AGREEABLE TO HIM (MAORALES BELLO REMAINS ON THE CEN ONLY AT THE EXPRESS WISH OF PRESIDENT PEREZ) PINERUA WILL BE IN VIRTUAL CONTROL OF THE AD PARTY MACHINERY. GIVEN THE GENERAL DESIRE IN AD FOR COHESION, IT APPEARS THAT THE PARTY HAS EMERGED FROM ITS NATIONAL CONVENTION STRONGER AND MORE UNITED THAN BEFORE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 CARACA 07530 231519Z

SHLAUDEMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECRETARY GENERAL, ELECTION RESULTS, PARTY LEADERS, PARTY ELECTIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CARACA07530
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750254-0784
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750730/aaaabbel.tel
Line Count: 155
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CARACAS 6618, 75 CARACAS 7400
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PINERUA ELECTED AD SECRETARY GENERAL
TAGS: PINT, VE, AD, (PINERUA ORDAZ, LUIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006